

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for creating a user interface for a spreadsheet-based software application, the method comprising:
 - providing a spreadsheet having:
 - a plurality of standard cells displayable as standard spreadsheet cells, and
 - a plurality of user interface cells displayable only as a window superimposed upon the standard spreadsheet cells; and
 - providing at least one control function adapted to create the window superimposed upon the standard spreadsheet cells.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one control function is executed as a function in a spreadsheet cell.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the user interface cells are executed by the same processor that executes the standard cells.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the window superimposed upon the standard spreadsheet cells is opaque with respect to the standard spreadsheet cells, such

that the standard spreadsheet cells cannot be seen where ever the standard spreadsheet cells are covered by the window.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the window superimposed upon the spreadsheet cells completely covers the spreadsheet cells so as to hide substantially all previously visible features of the standard spreadsheet cells.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing at least one wizard function adapted to manage a plurality of control functions.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the at least one wizard function presents the plurality of control functions as a menu wherein each control function can be independently accessed by a user.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the wizard executes the plurality of control functions in a sequence.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the sequence and functionality of the plurality of control functions are responsive to user input.

10. A method for creating a user interface for a software application, the method comprising:

providing a spreadsheet having a plurality of user interface cells displayable only as a window superimposed upon the software application; and providing at least one control function cooperative with a user interface cell, the at least one control function being adapted to create the window superimposed upon the software application.

11. A user interface for a spreadsheet-based software application, the application including a spreadsheet having a plurality of standard cells displayable as standard spreadsheet cells, the user interface comprising:

a plurality of user interface cells displayable only as a window superimposed upon the standard spreadsheet cells; and

at least one control function adapted to create the window superimposed upon the standard spreadsheet cells.

12. A spreadsheet comprising:

a plurality of standard cells displayable as standard spreadsheet cells, and

a plurality of user interface cells displayable only as a window superimposed upon the standard spreadsheet cells.

13. The spreadsheet of claim 12, further comprising:

at least one control function adapted to create the window superimposed upon the standard spreadsheet cells.

14. A computer system comprising:

a spreadsheet having a plurality of standard cells and a plurality of user interface cells;

an application processor for accessing both the plurality of standard cells, and the plurality of user interface cells; and

a user interface processor, cooperative with the application processor, for displaying the plurality of standard cells and user interface cells.

15. The computer system of claim 14, further comprising:

at least one control function adapted to create at least a portion of a user interface for the spreadsheet, the control function being executable by the application processor.

16. The computer system of claim 15, wherein the at least one control function is a dialog function.

17. The computer system of claim 15, wherein the at least one control function is a custom view function.

18. A method for creating a user interface for a spreadsheet-based software application, the method comprising:

providing a spreadsheet having a plurality of standard cells displayable as standard spreadsheet cells; and

providing at least one custom view control function adapted to create a window superimposed upon the standard spreadsheet cells, the window displaying a subset of the standard cells.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein cursor movement is limited to the subset of the standard cells.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein grid lines are not displayed.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein no expression line is displayed.

22. The method of claim 18, wherein no headers are displayed.

23. A user interface for a spreadsheet-based software application, the user interface comprising:

a spreadsheet having a plurality of standard cells displayable as standard spreadsheet cells; and

at least one custom view control function adapted to create a window superimposed upon the standard spreadsheet cells, the window displaying a subset of the standard cells.

24. The user interface of claim 23, wherein cursor movement is limited to the subset of the standard cells.
25. The user interface of claim 23, wherein grid lines are not displayed.
26. The user interface of claim 23, wherein no expression line is displayed.
27. The user interface of claim 23, wherein no headers are displayed.
28. The user interface of claim 23, further comprising:
a custom view wizard for managing a collection of custom view control functions.
29. The user interface of claim 28, wherein the custom view wizard is dynamic at run-time.
30. The user interface of claim 28, wherein the custom view wizard adapts to user input at run-time.
31. The user interface of claim 28, wherein the custom view wizard adapts to spreadsheet calculation results.